

a1
11 using the joint; and
12 whereby the cancellous bone surface initially forms
13 fibroblast which progresses into fibrocartilage as the implant is
14 resorbed so the fibrocartilage effectively replaces the implant
15 during such resorption.

a2
1 6. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 5 wherein
2 the ensuring step includes the step of selecting curved surface
3 shapes as said complementary surface shapes.

1 7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further
2 comprising the steps of:
3 forming a cavity into the medullary canal of the
4 exposed cancellous bone surface; and
5 selecting a non-porous bioresorbable implant having a
6 joint portion configured to fit between the first and second
7 joint surfaces and a stem portion configured to fit within said
8 cavity.

a3
1 21. (Amended) A method for treating at least one
2 degenerated surface on a cancellous bone, the at least one
3 surface being one or more of first and second relatively movable
4 surfaces defining a body joint, the method comprising the steps
5 of resecting the bone to [form] expose a cancellous bone surface,
6 maintaining a spacing between the cancellous surface and another
7 one of the relatively movable surfaces of the body joint,
8 permitting growth of fibroblast on the cancellous surface and
9 conversion of the fibroblast into fibrocartilage, and maintaining
10 at least a portion of the spacing during the permitting step and
11 until the fibrocartilage forms a layer of fibrocartilage on the
12 cancellous surface and defines at least one of the relatively
13 moveable surfaces of the bone joint so that thereafter relative
14 movements between the first and second surfaces take place along
15 the at least one surface formed by the fibrocartilage.

a4 Sub (B)
2 24. (Amended) A method for treating at least one
degenerated surface on a cancellous bone, the surface being one

a4
(cont.)
3 of first and second relatively movable surfaces defining a body
4 joint, the method comprising the steps of resecting the bone to
5 form a cancellous bone surface, placing a[n] bioresorbable
6 implant between the first and second surfaces to thereby space
7 the surfaces apart, permitting growth of fibroblast on the
8 cancellous surface and conversion of the fibroblast into
9 fibrocartilage, maintaining a spacing between the surfaces during
10 the permitting step and [gradually resorbing] waiting for the
11 body to gradually resorb the implant during the permitting step
12 so that, upon resorption of the implant, the fibrocartilage forms
13 at least one of the movable surfaces.

Sub 206
a5
Please add claim 25 as follows:

--25. (New) A method for treating a joint
2 having first and second mating joint surfaces comprising the
3 following steps:
4 removing a least a portion of the first joint surface
5 so to expose a cancellous bone surface;
6 placing a bioresorbable implant between and in contact
7 with the first and second joint surfaces so the implant initially
8 keeps said exposed cancellous bone surface spaced apart from the
9 second joint surface;
10 using the joint;
11 whereby the cancellous bone surface initially forms
12 fibroblast which progresses into fibrocartilage as the implant is
13 resorbed so the fibrocartilage effectively replaces the implant
14 during such resorption;
15 estimating the period of time it will take for the
16 fibroblast to progress into fibrocartilage; and
17 selecting the bioresorbable implant of a size, shape
18 and material according to said period of time.--